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**Shredded, Recycled, Reused - Attorney General's community shred days
protect consumers, and the environment too**

Wilmington, DE – Today, the Attorney General's Office announced the success of its "Community Shred Days" this month. In its continued effort to prevent identity theft, the Attorney General's office hosted three free community shredding events, one in each of Delaware's counties. Industrial-sized shredders at each site processed thousands of pounds of documents, and staff from the Consumer Protection Unit provided educational information about identity theft and resources to victims of identity theft and consumer fraud.

"Identity theft is one of the fastest growing white collar crimes in the nation and our shred days provided an important crime prevention tool to the public," said Timothy Mullaney, Director of the Attorney General's Fraud and Consumer Protection Division. "Hundreds of consumers statewide used these opportunities to reduce their risk of being victimized by safely destroying documents that contained personal identifying information."

3,500 pounds of paper was shredded in Sussex County on June 6th at the Georgetown CHEER Center. The New Castle County shred day, held on June 13th at Frawley Stadium, yielded 11,540 pounds of material. And the Kent County shred day, held in the Boscov's parking lot at the Dover Mall on June 20th, produced 6,280 pounds of shredded paper. In total, 21,320 pounds – more than 10 tons – of documents were destroyed.

In addition to protecting Delawareans from identity theft and fraud, the shred events were beneficial to the environment. Shredded documents were further refined into paper pulp which was transferred to recycling facilities in Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, where it will be used to manufacture recycled household paper products such as paper plates, paper towels and napkins.

Community shred days are part of the Attorney General's ongoing campaign to prevent identity theft and assist victims of the crime. Consumers are encouraged to learn more about identity theft by visiting www.attorneygeneral.delaware.gov/consumers or call the Attorney General's toll-free Consumer Hotline at 1-800-220-5424.

The June 2009 community shred days were funded by fines and settlements secured by the Attorney General's Office through the law enforcement actions of its Consumer Protection Unit.

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